Garrison GI Record Disputed

12/30/67

Miami Herald-Washington Post Wire

WASHINGTON — The Army is investigating how medical records on New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison reached the hands of a Chicago Tribune reporter, the Defense Department said Friday. Such records are supposed to be confidential unless the person concerned permits their release.

Meanwhile, Garrison subpenaed three "material witnesses" in New Orleans Friday in his controversial investigation of an alleged plot to assassinate President Kennedy.

Chicago Tribune reporter Russell Freeburg, in a copyrighted story published Friday, wrote that Garrison was discharged from the Army in 1951 as totally unfit for military duty because of mental problems.

Garrison himself declined comment Friday on The Tri-

Turn to Page 2A Col. 6

Army Record Disputed

Garrison Subpenas Three in JFK Probe

From Page 1

bune story. But his top aide, Charles A. Ward, denied its accuracy. A source close to Garrison said charges that he suffered mental disorders were raised during his 1965 campaign for reelection as district attorney and were discredited.

Garrison said the trio he supbenaed Friday was "in a unique position to observe activities relevant to the assassination."

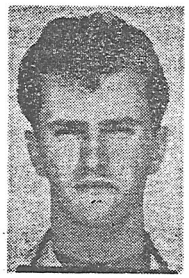
The men were identified as Loran Eugene Hall of Kernville, Calif., Lawrence John Howard Jr. of Los Angeles and Thomas Edward Beckham of Omaha.

The district attorney asserted none of the three had been questioned by the Warren Commission, which investigated President Kennedy's death Nov. 22, 1963, and concluded Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin.

The subpenas alleged that Hall and Howard checked into the Dallas YMCA in October, 1963, and remained in that city until the time of the assassination. Hall is said to have brought a weapon to Dallas shortly before Kennedy's death. The subpenas stated the two men were associated in Dallas with Jack Ruby — who killed Oswald and has since died — and with others "believed" to have been "involved in the assassination," including Oswald.

The Garrison subpenas also alleged that Hall and Howard were associated in New Orleans with the late David Ferrie, a pilot who had been another target of Garrison's investigation. And they claimed the two men had taken part in CIA-sponsored guerrilla training in Florida for raids on Cuba.

Loran Hall
. . . weapons charge



T. E. Beckham
. . . tied to suspect

Lawrence Howard
. . . placed in Dallas

As for Beckham, the subpena alleged he was seen in Dallas in November, 1963, with a number of people "believed to have played a part" in the Kennedy killing.

Beckham was also linked with Ferrie in New Orleans during 1963 when both were members of the "Old Orthodox Catholic Church of North America" — a small sect.

Hall, informed of the subpena, commented, "You're kidding." He denied ever meeting Oswald, Ruby, Ferrie "or anyone else involved in the assassination or anyone ever mentioned by Garrison or anybody else."

The subpenaed trio was ordered to appear before an Orleans Parish grand jury Feb. 1-2. All were promised immunity from arrest for anything that happened prior to their entering Louisiana.

Garrison already has accused two other men, Clay Shaw, of New Orleans, and recently Edgar Eugene Bradley, of Los Angeles, of taking part in an assassination plot.

He also asserted Friday that 10 men — "some of whom we have identified as participants in the assassination" — were arrested in Dallas' Dealey Plaza minutes after the shooting and later "quietly released."

Late Friday the Pentagon, in response to questions about Garrison's military record, released a brief chronology of his service noting he was "released from active duty by reason of physical disability in the grade of captain on Oct. 31, 1951." Garrison resigned from the National Guard last February as a lieutenant colonel.